

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Belmont-Sheffield Trust and Savings Bank Building

and/or common Montfield Hotel

2. Location

street & number 1001 W. Belmont Ave; 3146 N. Sheffield Ave. N/A not for publication

city, town Chicago N/A vicinity of

state Illinois code 012 county Cook code 031

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Lakeview Trust and Savings Bank, as Trustee, under Trust No.6025

street & number 3201 North Ashland Avenue

city, town Chicago N/A vicinity of state Illinois 60657

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cook County Recorder of Deeds

street & number 118 North Clark Street

city, town Chicago, Illinois 60602 state IL

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Structures  
in Chicago-Lakeview has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1975  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records IL Dept. of Conservation-Historic Sites Division

city, town Springfield state IL

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Belmont-Sheffield Bank Building, which once contained a bank, a residential hotel, offices and stores, stands six stories at the southwest corner of Belmont and Sheffield Avenues: 125' front on Belmont, and 100' front on Sheffield. The free standing building is "U" shaped in the upper stories and has a light court of approximately 1500 square feet in the center rear beginning above the second floor of the building.

Construction is of concrete. The structure is faced with limestone on the first four stories and buff-colored brick on the remaining two. A shallow cornice projects beyond the wall plane above the third floor, the last floor of office space. The fourth floor, where the hotel section of the building begins, has terra cotta medallions of Medusa on the piers separating the five window bays on Sheffield and end bays on Belmont and is topped by geometric moldings and a second slightly deeper cornice. The top two floors have simply-ornamented limestone spandrels. A parapet of brick is capped by projecting acanthus ornament.

Stylistically the building combines Classical influences typically found in both downtown and neighborhood banking institutions, with elements of the Art Deco style popular in the late twenties.

The Bank's monumental arched entry located on Belmont is its most conspicuous Classical feature. Reminiscent of the Renaissance work of Alberti (especially the Church of St. Andrea at Mantua), the three-story arch springs from strong Ionic columns. Once inside this impressive archway the scale changes to one more human. A recessed post and lintel doorway painted blue green is embellished with more intricate Classical details including rosettes, lintils, quivers and acanthus patterns. Hanging from the center of the shallow vaulted entrance is a wrought iron bronze lantern. The hotel-office entrance on Sheffield is also ornamented with Classical detailing.

The building combines the Art Deco style with Classicism, thus making it more the product of its own time. Its massing is subtle, but distinctly Art Deco. Looking at the Belmont Avenue facade, the symmetrical building is divided into five bays that project in geometric increments toward the central entrance section. The center bay also projects vertically echoing the skyscraper style in a very gentle manner. Art Deco window treatment flanks the monumental arched entrance at the third story.

Once inside the main doorway there is a double foyer. The first, a small, shallow vestibule has a coffered ceiling, travertine walls and veined marble flooring set in a diamond pattern. The vestibule opens into a broad lobby with a coffered ceiling and pink marble wainscoting. The next space is the bank's grand two-story banking room. Because of the square skylight with a geometric spoked pattern and the delicately scaled ornament, the space is monumental but lighter and more intimate in feeling than the exterior might suggest. The skylight is surrounded by square coffers and

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squares of plaster work. Its surrounding walls are articulated by different sized bands of plaster ornament using both the vocabulary of Classicism and Art Deco. The broadest band contains a finely-scaled Art Deco frieze punctuated by large liberty coins in the center of each wall. Opposite the doorway at the second-story level are three hinged doors that opened on the bank's second-floor accounting room.

The office spaces can be accessed from the bank vestibule, but the main office and hotel entrance is on Sheffield. The elevator lobby to the upper stories has a strapwork ceiling and marble flooring in the same pattern as the banking room.

The entire bank building combines Classicism and Art Deco, monumentality and intimate scale in a manner that suits the bank's need to impress with the more personal needs of the customer.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1928

Builder/Architect John A. Nyden

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Belmont-Sheffield Trust and Savings Bank is primarily significant as the only remaining bank building built in Lakeview before the Depression that retains its architectural integrity; all others have been demolished or extensively altered. Its stylistic characteristics, reflecting a combination of Neo-Classicism typical of bank design and Art Deco refinements typical of the period, have not been lost. In addition, the building is important as an early multi-use structure. The prominently-located six story corner building was unusual if not unique in Chicago for combining a bank, offices, stores and a residential hotel under a single roof. It was always a hotel. Reference to the Montfield Hotel is found in the 1930 phone directory. The bank that occupied the building between November 1, 1929 and July 6, 1933 is a typical Chicago community bank but is historically important to Lakeview as the Swedish institution in a neighborhood that was strongly Swedish. The bank's financial support, its Board of Directors and its architect were all Swedish.

Stephan Clark, recognized historian of the area and author of The Lakeview Saga who served as Vice President of the Lake View Trust and Savings Bank, mentions six neighborhood banking institutions in the Lakeview neighborhood in existence in the 1920s:

The Lakeview Trust and Savings Bank, 3400 Ashland, (at Belmont & Lincoln) founded in 1905.

The Citizens State Bank, formerly at Melrose and Lincoln, SW corner. Founded in 1913

The Lake View State Bank, 1548 Belmont (at Clark) founded in 1911.

Bowmanville National Bank, 4800 North Western, founded in 1912.

Lincoln Trust and Savings Bank, southeast corner of Lincoln and Irving Park, founded in 1913.

Belmont-Sheffield Trust and Savings Bank, 1001 West Belmont Avenue, founded in December 1927.

Of the six banking institutions the Lakeview Trust and Savings Bank, was the first north side community bank. In 1913, the bank commissioned Holabird and Roche to design a new facility at the northeast corner of Ashland and Belmont. That building was completely remodeled in 1959. All the elegant Classical ornament was removed and the interior was totally modernized.

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In the fall of 1913 four officers withdrew from the Lakeview Trust and Savings Bank and organized the Citizens State Bank of Lakeview, which was located at the corner of Lincoln and Melrose. Only the Melrose Avenue facade of this Neo-Classical building remains, its lower floor altered. The interior has been completely altered for commercial use.

The Lakeview State Bank, which became the Belmont National Bank, occupied the building at 1548 West Belmont Avenue (also known as 3179 North Clark Street) built @ 1911. The two-story structure retains most of its Classical exterior features, but the interior is largely formica paneling and has none of its original details.

The Bowmanville Bank at 4800 North Western Avenue (now just outside of Lakeview) became the Commercial National Bank of Chicago and has been completely remodeled--inside and out--in the last six years; none of the bank's original features were retained.

The Lincoln Trust and Savings Bank at 3959 North Lincoln, constructed in 1926, is a handsome Art Deco building from the third floor up. Windows on the first two stories have been completely altered and the purity of the building suffers from an entry marquis. The interior has been remodeled, painted over and stripped of all interior elegance which included a stained glass sky-light, brass trim, marble pillars and a circular staircase.

Of the six banks in the Lakeview area mentioned by Clark, only the Belmont-Sheffield Trust and Savings Bank Building remains totally true to its original design inside and out. The exterior has only been altered by signage, graffiti and slight loss of ornament. The monumental Classical entry is intact. Although the bank interior has suffered neglect and water damage, much of its handsome plasterwork is intact as is the banking room's large skylight and marble flooring. The damaged plasterwork could easily be restored. The cast iron Art Deco radiator grills need only to be re-mounted. Some of the upstairs hallways have their original woodwork and marble wainscoting

The Belmont-Sheffield Trust and Savings Bank which opened on November 1, 1929, represents an example, in Lakeview, of community banking which, according to Cyril James who wrote The History of Banking in Chicago, is "a decidedly Chicago institution." As the downtown banks were getting larger and more impersonal, neighborhood banks met local and personal banking needs. The Belmont-Sheffield Trust and Savings Bank occupied a prominent and convenient location for its neighboring clientele--at the intersection of two major streets and one block from the elevated train.

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Its very size expressed the building's importance to the neighborhood. Even today the building is surrounded by smaller homes and shops.

During the shakiest period in banking history, the Belmont-Sheffield Trust and Savings Bank survived four years of operation. From 1929 to 1932, the bank was thriving and doubled its capital investment from \$100,000 to \$200,000. It showed promise. The bank held its own through the March, 1933 bank holidays until July 6, 1933 when it closed. James points out that of the 318 banks organized within the city limits of Chicago between 1921 and 1935, 263 had gone out of existence by failure or consolidation. According to Clarence Schwartling, Vice President of the original Board of Directors, there was never a run on the Belmont-Sheffield Bank; it was forced to close after the bank holidays because it did not have sufficient net capital. Ultimately, when bank assets were sold in 1942, investors got 90.5¢ on the dollar.

In an area that was predominantly German and Swedish in the 1920s and 1930s, the Belmont-Sheffield Trust and Savings Bank was built to service the needs of the Swedish residents surrounding the bank in the Lakeview area. The area had a high enough Swedish population that neighborhood banks often printed passbooks and bylaws in Swedish as well as German and English.

The Belmont-Sheffield Trust and Savings Bank was founded in 1927 by a group of prominent Swedish professional and businessmen. J. H. Johnson, President of the bank, got financing from the State Bank of Chicago, a Swedish banking institution, to construct the building. He served as president of the holding company that owned the building and rented space to the bank, gathering income from the office space, hotel and stores in the bank building.

The architect selected by the entirely Swedish board, John A. Nyden, was born in Sweden. He maintained a strong Swedish identity serving as a Director of the bank and as President of the Board of Governors of North Park College, a Swedish Covenant college on the north side of Chicago. He designed many of the buildings on their campus and several Swedish churches. In addition, he wrote a book about his Swedish past, The Story of our Forefathers, in 1928.

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John Nyden, although not an innovative architect, was prolific and versatile. He was familiar with European styles first hand and designed a number of fine buildings (including the Hahn Building and Stoneleigh Manor at 904-06 Michigan in Evanston and the Builders and Merchants Bank Building at Foster Avenue and Clark Street) in various popular styles. His attention to door treatment, surface detailing and handling of materials distinguish all of his work and in particular the Belmont-Sheffield Bank.

The Belmont-Sheffield Trust and Savings Bank is the only remaining bank building in Lakeview that survives from the 1920s intact. Its Swedish heritage reflects the former ethnic composition of the neighborhood and the bank building's multi-purpose use was highly unusual for the times.

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Chicago Building Department Permit Files.

Chicago Telephone Directory, 1930.

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Clark, Stephan Papers, in the Ravenswood-Lakeview Historic Collection,  
at the Hild Regional Library.

James, Cyril F. The Growth of Chicago Banks: Vol.II, The Modern Age.  
New York:Harper & Brothers Publishers,1938.

Kitegawa, Evelyn M and Tauber, Karl E. Ed. Local Community Fact Book,  
Chicago, Metropolitan Area,1960.

Polks Directory of Chicago. The Chicago Association of Commerce, 1923,  
1928, 1929.

Interview with Clarence Schwartling, former Vice President of the  
Belmont-Sheffield Trust and Savings Bank.

Interview with Andrew Russo, Senior Vice President Lincoln National Bank.

. Chicago Daily News Almanac and Yearbook,1928-1933

Interview with Mary Shrimplin, Secretary to Stephan Clark



# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Architectural Forum. Vol XLVIII, #6, June, 1928, Herous, Frederick "The Architecture of Banks"; Hopkins, Alfred "The Fundamentals of Bank Planning"; and Taylor, C. Stanley "What The Banker Expects of His Architect."

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .3

Quadrangle name CHICAGO Loop, IL.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6	4	4	5	7	2	0	4	6	4	3	0	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

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D 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The building is located at the southwest corner of Belmont Avenue and Sheffield Avenue, between the north-south alley and Belmont Avenue.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Benjamin; Lenore Pressman

organization date October 14, 1983

street & number 711 Marion Avenue telephone 432-1822

city or town Highland Park state Illinois

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title [Signature] date 12/30/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

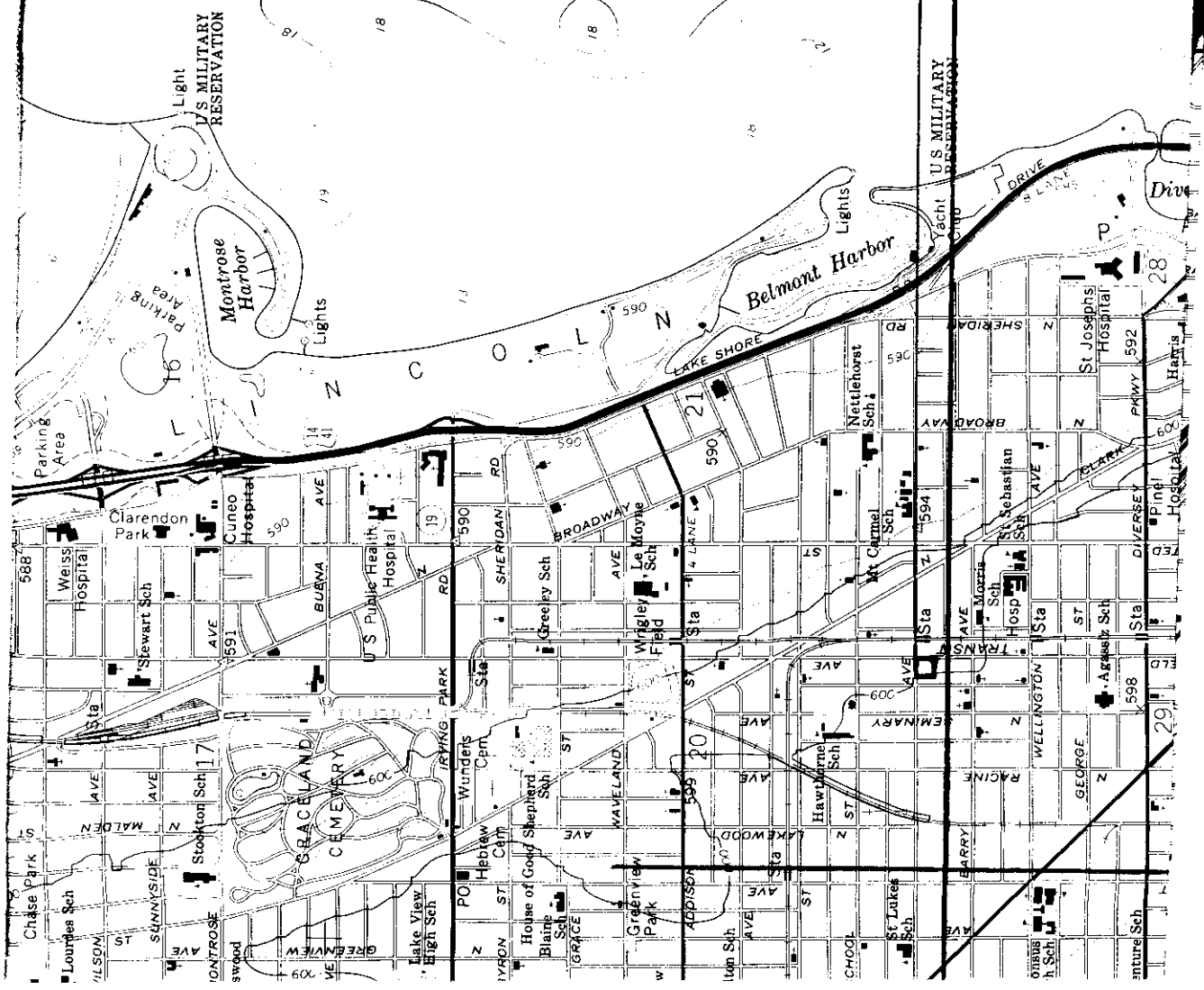
Chief of Registration

E

M I C H I G

APPROXIMATE MEAN LAKE ELEVATION 580

Subject property





J. F. 0180

# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

MAR 6 1984

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places beginning February 26, 1984 and ending March 3, 1984. For further information call (202) 343-9552.

STATE, County, Vicinity, Property, Address, (Date Listed)

ALASKA, Fairbanks Division, Fairbanks vicinity, Goldstream Dredge No. 8, Steese Hwy. (02/28/84)

ARIZONA, Cochise County, Douglas, El Paso and Southwestern Railroad Y M C A, 1000 Pan American Ave. (03/01/84)

ARIZONA, Navajo County, Winslow vicinity, Chevelon Ruin, SE of Winslow (03/01/84)

ARIZONA, Navajo County, Winslow vicinity, Homolovi III, N of Winslow (03/01/84)

CONNECTICUT, Fairfield County, Ridgebury, Ridgebury Congregational Church, Ridgebury Rd. and George Washington Hwy. (03/01/84)

CONNECTICUT, Hartford County, Hartford, Frog Hollow Historic District (Boundary Increase), Bounded by Park Terr., Hillside Ave., Hamilton, and Summit Sts. (03/01/84)

CONNECTICUT, Litchfield County, New Milford, Housatonic Railroad Station, Railroad St. (03/01/84)

CONNECTICUT, New Haven County, New Haven, Lincoln Theatre, 1 Lincoln St. (03/01/84)

FLORIDA, Broward County, Pompano Beach, Sample Estate, 3161 N. Dixie Hwy. (03/01/84)

FLORIDA, Dade County, Kampong, (03/01/84)

GEORGIA, Cobb County, Marietta, Braswell-Carnes House, 2430 Burnt Hickory Rd., NW (03/01/84)

GEORGIA, Fulton County, Atlanta, Sciple, Charles E., House, 1112 Peachtree St. (03/01/84)

GEORGIA, Meriwether County, Greenville, Render Family Homestead, GA 18 (03/01/84)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Belmont-Sheffield Trust and Savings Bank Building, 1001 W. Belmont Ave.; 3146 N. Sheffield Ave. (03/01/84)

ILLINOIS, Sangamon County, Springfield, Yates, Gov. Richard, House, 1190 Williams Blvd. (03/01/84)

INDIANA, Benton County, Oxford, Presbyterian Church Building, NW of Benton and Justus Sts. (03/01/84)

INDIANA, Dearborn County, Aurora, George Street Bridge (County Bridge No. 159), George, Main, and Importing Sts. (03/01/84)

INDIANA, Dearborn County, Lawrenceburg, Downtown Lawrenceburg Historic District, Roughly bounded by ConRail tracks, Charlotte, Tate, Williams, and Elm Sts. (03/01/84)

INDIANA, Delaware County, Muncie, Boyce Block, 216-224 E. Main St. (03/01/84)

INDIANA, Delaware County, Muncie, Rose, F.D., Building, 121 E. Charles St. (03/01/84)

INDIANA, Floyd County, Galena vicinity, Jersey Park Farm, Off Cunningham Sarles and Borden Rds. (03/01/84)

INDIANA, Hamilton County, Noblesville, Harrell, Dr. Samuel, House, 399 N. 10th St. (03/01/84)

INDIANA, Kosciusko County, Warsaw, Warsaw Cut Glass Company, 505 S. Detroit St. (03/01/84)

INDIANA, Lake County, Dyer, Meyer, Joseph Ernest, House, 1370 Joliet St. (03/01/84)

INDIANA, Lake County, Gary, Knights of Columbus Building, 333 W. 5th Ave. (03/01/84)

INDIANA, Lake County, Hobart, Pennsylvania Railroad Station, 1001 Lillian St. (03/01/84)